

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A software method for analyzing relationships between individuals comprising the steps of:

~~recording at least one~~ obtaining organizational relationship data based upon an organization structure and recording the organizational relationship data in a relationship data store;

~~recording at least one~~ obtaining project-based relationship data based upon project-specific collaborations and recording the project-based relationship data in the relationship data store;

~~recording at least one~~ obtaining social relationship data based upon social interactions and recording the social relationship data in the relationship data store, wherein relationships are revealed or altered dynamically based on detected communication events between the individuals;

receiving a relationship inquiry;

querying the relationship data recorded in the relationship data store ~~said recorded relationships;~~

~~with respect to least one of said relationships, associating a first affinity value to said at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in one direction and associating a second affinity value to said at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in another direction, whereby said at least one relationship is a bidirectional relationship; and~~

generating a query result in response to the relationship inquiry based upon

~~relationships from multiple relationship categories; and from said querying step, wherein said querying step queries organizational relationship data, project-specific relationship data, and social relationship data~~

graphically illustrating the query result in at least one of a unified relationship chart and a relationship linkage chart, wherein the unified relationship chart illustrates relationships among individuals using data from at least two different relationship categories, and wherein the relationship linkage chart illustrates at least one relationship linkage including a chain of relationships that connect two individuals.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, said querying step further comprising the steps of:

identifying at least two individuals; and
determining at least one relationship linkage between said identified individuals.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, said determining step further comprising the steps of:

determining at least two relationship linkages between said identified individuals;
determining a linkage strength for said each relationship linkage; and
selecting a preferred one of said relationship linkages based upon said linkage strengths.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each linkage strength is based at least in part upon affinity values for relationships included within relationship linkages.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] 1, ~~said step of generating said chart further comprising~~ wherein the at least one of the unified relationship chart and the relationship linkage chart is generated by the steps of:

illustrating individuals as nodes and relationships as line segments connecting said nodes; and

illustrating different relationship categories using visually distinct line segments.

10-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A software method for managing relationships comprising the steps of:

receiving data for a plurality of relationships involving a plurality of individuals;

categorizing said relationships into a plurality of categories including organizational relationship, project-based relationship, and social relationship;

recording the relationship data of said categorized relationships in a relationship data store;

with respect to at least one of the relationships, associating a first affinity value to said at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in one direction and associating a second affinity value to said at least one relationship to indicate the relative strength of the relationship in another direction, whereby said at least one relationship is a bidirectional relationship;

receiving a relationship inquiry;

querying said recorded ~~relationships~~ relationship data in the relationship data store based upon specified relationship parameters; and

generating a relationship report responsive to said querying step, wherein said relationship report contains relationship data from at least two of said categories.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:
dynamically modifying at least a portion of said recorded ~~relationships~~
relationship data based upon communication events occurring within an information management system.

29-32. (Cancelled)